

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus for creating image forming data based on image data received from a host device and forming an image based on said corresponding image forming data, comprising:

calibration means for executing a calibration process for setting particular image output characteristics for said image forming apparatus; and

control means for simultaneously at least creating said image forming data, if said calibration means is executing the calibration process when image data is received from said host device.

2. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, said image forming apparatus being connected to said host device over a network and further comprising:

rasterization means for reconstructing image data from PDL data received over said network;

storage means for storing image data reconstructed by said rasterization means; and

image forming means for forming an image based on the image data stored in said storage means, wherein said control means has a discrimination means for determining whether or not a calibration process is being executed when image data is stored in said storage means and, if said discrimination means determines that a calibration process

is being executed, said control means puts said image forming means in a standby state and, after the execution of said calibration process is completed, said control means allows said image forming means to start forming an image and,  
5 if said discrimination means determines that a calibration process is not being executed, said control means lets said image forming means to start forming the image.

3. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1 or  
10 2, wherein said image forming means is a color image forming apparatus for forming an image through an electrophotographic method.

4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1 or  
15 2, wherein said image forming means is a color image forming apparatus for forming an image through an ink jet method.

5. An image forming apparatus for creating image forming data based on fax-received data received from a host device  
20 and forming an image based on said corresponding image forming data, comprising:

calibration means for executing a calibration process for setting particular image output characteristics for said image forming apparatus; and  
25 control means for simultaneously at least creating said image forming data, if said calibration means is executing the calibration process when fax-received data is received

from said host device.

6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 5,  
said image forming apparatus being connected to said host  
5 device over a network and further comprising:

interpretation means for interpreting fax-received  
data received over the network;

storage means for storing image data interpreted by  
said interpretation means; and

10 image forming means for forming an image based on the  
image data stored in said storage means, wherein said control  
means has a discrimination means for determining whether  
or not a calibration process is being executed when image  
data is stored in said storage means and, if said  
15 discrimination means determines that a calibration process  
is being executed, said control means puts said image forming  
means in a standby state and, after the execution of said  
calibration process is completed, said control means allows  
said image forming means to start forming an image and,  
20 if said discrimination means determines that a calibration  
process is not being executed, said control means lets said  
image forming means to start forming the image.

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 5 or  
25 6, wherein said image forming means is an image forming  
apparatus for forming an image through an  
electrophotographic method.

8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said image forming means is a color image forming apparatus for forming an image through an ink jet method.

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9. An image forming method for creating image forming data based on image data received from a host device and forming an image based on said image forming data, comprising:

10        a calibration step for executing a calibration process for setting particular image output characteristics for said image forming apparatus; and

          a control step for simultaneously at least creating said image forming data, if said calibration means is  
15        executing the calibration process when image data is received from said host device.

10. An image forming method according to claim 9, said image forming apparatus being connected to said host device  
20        over a network and further comprising:

          rasterization means for reconstructing image data from PDL data received over said network;

          storage means for storing image data reconstructed by said rasterization means; and

25        image forming means for forming an image based on the image data stored in said storage means, wherein said control step has a discrimination step for determining whether or

not a calibration process is being executed when image data is stored in said storage means and, if said discrimination step determines that a calibration process is being executed, said control step puts said image forming means in a standby state and, after the execution of said calibration process is completed, said control step allows said image forming means to start forming an image and, if said discrimination means determines that a calibration process is not being executed, said control step lets said image forming means to start forming the image.

11. An image forming method for creating image forming data based on fax-received data received from a host device and forming an image based on said image forming data, comprising:

a calibration step for executing a calibration process for setting particular image output characteristics for said image forming apparatus; and

a control step for simultaneously at least creating said image forming data, if said calibration means is executing the calibration process when fax-received data is received from said host device.

12. An image forming method according to claim 11, said image forming apparatus being connected to said host device over a network and further comprising:

interpretation means for interpreting fax-received

data received over the network;

storage means for storing image data interpreted by said interpretation means; and

image forming means for forming an image based on the  
5 imagedata stored in said storage means, wherein said control  
step has a discrimination means for determining whether  
or not a calibration process is being executed when image  
data is stored in said storage means and, if said  
discrimination means determines that a calibration process  
10 is being executed, said control step puts said image forming  
means in a standby state and, after the execution of said  
calibration process is completed, said control step allows  
said image forming means to start forming an image and,  
if said discrimination means determines that a calibration  
15 process is not being executed, said control step lets said  
image forming means to start forming the image.